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The seventh season of *Game of Thrones*® has drawn to a thrilling close, but some of the show's most iconic locations can still be found in Northern Ireland. Speaking of cliffhangers, visit Downhill Beach where House Targaryen's ancestral home, Dragonstone, overlooks the sea. Member of House Stark? Drive to Castle Ward in County Down, where you'll find the 16th-century ruin that stands in for Winterfell. Antrim's Cushendun Caves is where Melisandre birthed the shadow assassin, and Shillanavogy Valley is where Daenerys became Khaleesi of the Dothraki.

Fans should not miss the Doors of Thrones. Ten pub doors carved from the wood of the Dark Hedges – which fans will recognize as the King's Road – are positioned at key filming locations in Northern Ireland through June 2018 (and possibly later). Along the way, stop at the Ulster Museum in Belfast, where a 260-foot *Game of Thrones*® tapestry, detailing the events of the entire series to date, is on display until March 2018, with the potential to be extended even further.

Visit **Ireland.com/GameOfThrones** to learn more and to plan your visit to Westeros in Northern Ireland.

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CRAFT LOVER

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COLLEGE STRONG

Boston Marathon bombing survivors award the first Boston College Strong Scholarship to BC sophomore Jack Manning, who lost his leg to cancer as a child. 4

CRAIG F. WALKER/BOSTON GLOBE VIA GETTY IMAGES

WELCOME TO METRO BOSTON

JOSHUA CROUTHAMEL, FEATURES EDITOR

The opioid crisis is truly a nationwide emergency, but it's especially apparent here in the commonwealth. In Massachusetts, opioid-related overdose deaths in 2016 increased by 17 percent over 2015. But what's at the root of the problem? Why are people moving from doctor-authorized prescriptions to street drugs? And what's the difference between heroin and the newest synthetic opioids? Metro speaks to an expert on substance abuse to get some answers. **metro.us**

NORTH KOREA THREAT IS 'CRITICAL, IMMINENT'

1 The threat from North Korea has grown to a "critical and imminent level" and the United States, Japan and South Korea must address the matter, Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera told his U.S. and South Korean counterparts in talks. Onodera's remarks underscored the deep concern in Tokyo after North Korean weapons tests, including test firing missiles over Japan, as Pyongyang seeks to develop a nuclear-tipped missile capable of reaching the United States. His comments broke from more measured language on Monday by U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-Moo, as the three men met on the sidelines of a gathering of Asian defense chiefs in the Philippines. "[The] threat posed by North Korea has grown to the unprecedented, critical and imminent level.

TRUMP CALL 'MADE ME CRY EVEN WORSE'

2 The widow of a U.S. Army sergeant killed in Niger this month said on Monday that President Donald Trump "made me cry even worse" in a condolence telephone call when he said that her husband "knew what he signed up for." In an interview with ABC's "Good Morning America," Myeshia Johnson, widow of Sgt. La David T. Johnson, also said she has been told little about how her husband was killed and has not been allowed to see his body. Johnson's comments, her first to the media about the condolence call from Trump, were likely to fuel a controversy that has swirled for days around the president's handling of the call to the widow. La David Johnson was one of four U.S. Army soldiers killed on Oct. 4 in an attack in the West African nation.

GETTY IMAGES

TRUMP RAT

3 A pop-up inflatable "Trump Rat" is erected facing the Frank Rizzo statue, in Center City Philadelphia on Monday. In recent time, controversy grew about the statue of the former mayor and police commissioner. The statue has been target of protest in the past. Monday was also Rizzo's birthday.

AMAZON RECEIVES 238 PROPOSALS

4 Amazon has received 238 proposals from cities and regions across North America vying to host the company's second headquarters. The number of applicants underscores the interest in the contest, which Seattle-based Amazon announced last month. The world's largest online retailer said it would invest more than $5 billion and create up to 50,000 jobs for "Amazon HQ2." The deadline for submitting proposals was Thursday. Amazon said 54 states, provinces, districts and territories in the United States, Canada and Mexico were represented in the bids. Some said this month they could offer Amazon billions of dollars in tax breaks if they were chosen. New Jersey proposed $7 billion in potential credits against state and city taxes if Amazon locates in Newark and sticks to hiring commitments, for instance.

GOOGLE'S LATEST PHONE OFF TO A ROCKY START

5 The launch of Alphabet Inc.'s second-generation Google Pixel smartphones has been hampered by display problems and pricing and shipping issues, prompting the company to open an investigation and issue multiple apologies to customers. The Pixel 2 and Pixel 2 XL, which start at $649 and debuted in stores on Thursday, are the lynchpin of Google's efforts to take on Apple Inc.'s iPhone directly. Early Pixel 2 users have voiced frustration with mishaps, including a potentially serious problem with the screen. Google said on Sunday it is investigating whether graphics are burning into the display of the Pixel 2, following a report on the AndroidCentral blog detailing the issue after a week of use. Burn-in, which usually becomes a problem only after several years of activity, can make it difficult to see information on the display.

MetroWeen's Trumpkin contest

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The Boston College campus. NICOLAUS CZARNECKI

Boston Marathon bombing survivors award first Boston College Strong Scholarship

BC sophomore Jack Manning, who lost his leg to cancer as a child, is the first recipient.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
@kristindakota
kristin.toussaint@metro.us

Boston College sophomore Jack Manning is the first recipient of the Boston College Strong Scholarship, awarded Monday by two Boston Marathon bombings survivors.

Patrick Downes and Jessica Kensky were both severely injured in the 2013 bombings, each losing a leg due to their injuries. Kensky lost her other leg to amputation about a year and a half later.

Downes graduated from BC alumnus in 2005, and friends from that class raised money toward a scholarship to honor the couple, according to the school. So far, nearly 1,000 people have raised about $400,000.

Manning is the first recipient of that scholarship, which will help cover his four years of study at Boston College. He lost one of his legs to cancer 10 years ago and now supports and mentors young cancer patients who may lose limbs.

"Jess and I were thrilled when we heard about Jack and his story of perseverance in the face of adversity," Downes said in a statement. "He is exactly the type of student we want to acknowledge and celebrate."

At 8 years old, Manning was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a type of cancer that begins in the bones. He underwent months of chemotherapy before doctors performed rotationplasty, a procedure for which a portion of a limb is removed, and the lower part of the limb is rotated and reattached.

Manning's cancerous tumor, along with a section of his leg around the knee, were removed and the lower part of his legs was reattached, backward, to his thigh. He went on to play football and baseball at Roxbury Latin School and has participated in the Pan Mass Challenge as a volunteer and rider.

"I am incredibly grateful to Patrick and Jessica, Boston College and all those who donated to this scholarship fund," he said in a statement. "The time I have spent with them has been incredible. We really hit it off and talked openly about our experiences. It means a lot to be the first recipient of this scholarship."

Boston College student Jack Manning poses for a portrait on campus in Newton, Massachusetts, on Oct. 21, 2017. Manning is to receive the first scholarship in the name of Marathon bombing survivors Patrick Downes and his wife Jessica Kensky. GETTY IMAGES

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the YMCA

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF INVITATION TO BID

The YMCA of Greater Boston announces its intention of sponsoring the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program. Planned dates of operation are January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 with the option to renew for up to two years -7 days per week. Bids are solicited from vendors. Anticipated service is approximately 2 meals and one snack per day at 4 sites and 1 snack and/or supper per day at 25 after school/teen sites with the potential for expansion. In addition after school programs require lunch during school vacation weeks. (After school/Teen Sites do not operate under CACFP during summer months, but start up again for September). Bids must be received by (2:00PM on November 17, 2017). All bids are subject to review by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office for Food and Nutrition Programs, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148.

The public bid opening will be at (2:00PM on November 20, 2017 at 316 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA, 02115).

Copies of the Invitation to Bid may be received from:
YMCA of Greater Boston, 316 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115 • Attn: (Paul Slovin)

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Bernie Sanders rallies in Somerville, Cambridge

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders was in the Boston area on Monday to rally with local candidates running for city council, the school board and the board of aldermen.

Sanders, a Vermont independent, is supporting 17 candidates from Somerville and Cambridge endorsed by Our Revolution.

Before the rally, Sanders told the Concord Monitor that he will run for re-election in 2018. "I am an independent, and I have always run in Vermont as an independent, while I caucus with the Democrats in the United States Senate," he said in an interview with the New Hampshire newspaper. "That's what I've been doing for a long time, and that's what I'll continue to do." MORGAN ROUSSEAU

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Man wanted for stabbing dog with machete captured: Police

A man who officials say randomly attacked a woman and stabbed her dog with a machete in Taunton last month has been arrested.

Thomas Vargus, 45, one of the Massachusetts State Police's most-wanted fugitives, was arrested Sunday in Pennsylvania, police said Monday.

Vargus allegedly attacked a woman walking her dog Sept. 18 on Church Street in Taunton. He abruptly pulled out a machete, officials said, and began stabbing the dog. The woman was also struck and injured by the weapon during the attack.

Residents nearby intervened during the incident and locked the dog inside a vehicle so that it wasn't further injured. Vargus then allegedly fled the scene and a warrant was issued for his arrest He was added to the list of Most Wanted fugitives in Massachusetts not long after the assault.

Vargus has a "lengthy and violent" criminal history in Massachusetts, according to state police, including nine assault-and-battery convictions with dangerous weapons like a beer bottle, Mace sprayer and beer can. He has also been convicted on federal narcotics conspiracy charges.

Thomas Vargus was on the Massachusetts most wanted fugitives list for allegedly stabbing a dog with a machete. MASSACHUSETTS STATE POLICE

Vargus was arrested after troopers learned that he may be living in Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania. According to intelligence gathered by officials, he was staying with a convicted felon and member of the Pagan Outlaws motorcycle gang who was well-known to area police.

That man, Glen J. Turner, 70, had served a federal prison sentence for shooting a New Jersey state trooper in the face in 1982. Turner and Vargus served federal prison time together, officials said. Turner remains on federal parole.

On Sunday, a Pennsylvania officer saw Turner and Vargus walk into a local diner and called for back up. Once the men left the diner, officers took Vargus into custody.

Vargus was then taken to the Marcus Hook Police Department and charged as a fugitive from justice. Officials in Massachusetts will arrange his transportation back to Bristol County, where he will face charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and animal cruelty.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT

Not buying it, Matt Damon

So it turns out that Matt Damon — father of daughters — knew about the time Harvey Weinstein harassed Gwyneth Paltrow. And despite being the father of daughters, he said and did nothing. Typical!

In an interview with ABC News on Monday, the 47-year-old admitted that Ben Affleck told him about the incident. "I knew that they had come to whatever agreement or understanding. She was the first lady of Miramax. And he treated her incredibly respectfully." Insert eye-roll emoji here because we cannot.

Damon also insisted that he only knew of Weinstein, 65, as a generally gross dude, not as someone who allegedly serially sexually harassed and assaulted women from all over — despite knowing about Paltrow second-hand. Mmkay!

"I knew he was an a—hole. … But the criminal sexual predation is not something that I ever thought was going on."

Sorry, not sorry, Damon. We're um — how do you say? — not buying this bulls—t. Bye!

Should have known better.
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

the word

John Stamos is off the market

John Stamos — an attractive man most famous for a character he played in "Full House" a full 22 years ago — is engaged. OK! The perpetually hot actor announced his engagement to his multihyphenate girlfriend, actress-model-writer Caitlin McHugh, with a very heartfelt, very cheesy illustration on Facebook and Twitter. "I asked … she said yes! … And we lived happily ever after." Smooth moves, Uncle Jesse.

Smooth moves, Uncle Jesse.

The 54-year-old has been dating McHugh for about a year and a half. But who is she even? Here's what we know, after about five minutes of research.

She's 31. Young Caitlin probably had a crush on Uncle Jesse when she was but a wee lass.

This is her second marriage. She has an ex-husband named Massimo Lusardi.

She's obsessed with Disney. Judging from her Instagram feed, she dresses up like Disney princesses a lot in her spare time. Cool!

She played a witch on "Vampire Diaries." If you haven't seen the series, yes the title is extremely misleading. Nobody even keeps a diary after the first season!

George Clooney is no longer a pranking man

George Clooney is just so famous for his pranks. Also for being an actor. But now, the father of two says he just doesn't have time for pranks anymore. Sad!

At the premiere of "Suburbicon," the 56-year-old opened up on his lack of shenanigans, saying, "When you're directing, you're busy. When you're acting, you've got a lot of time and you can do all kinds of horrible things." What a charmer!

And lest you think that Clooney's no-shenanigans rule was met with a sigh of relief among his cast and crew, well, let them prove you wrong. "I am very bummed," actress Karimah Westbrook admitted. "I'm actually going to talk to him. … I wish he would play a prank on me, but maybe next film, hopefully, if we ever work together again." Oh, honey, no. You're brainwashed, girl!

Thank the heavens.

Kim Cattrall isn't friends with SJP

There's been some drama about Kim Cattrall refusing to do a third "Sex and the City" film — which frankly is totally fine because nobody is asking for a third film, at all.

In a recent interview, the 61-year-old talked to Piers Morgan (ew) to clear the air. Turns out? She was never even buddy-buddy with those broads. "We've never been friends. We've been colleagues and in some way, it's a very healthy place to be." Ooh, almost burn! Got too nice there at the end.

Sick burn, yo!

"Now to get any kind of negative press about something that I've been saying for almost a year, that I'm demanding or a diva? And this is really where I take to task the people from 'Sex and the City,' and specifically Sarah Jessica Parker. I think she could have been nicer." SJP burn!

She then suggested that Samantha Jones be played by a woman of color which, OK, yas! It'll never happen, but still!

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Craft-lover Amy Sedaris has

Chatting with the actress and comedian about her new series, "At Home with Amy Sedaris," DIY inspiration and Princess Carolyn.

Each episode promises very necessary homemaking skills, like making raisin necklaces and entertaining businessmen. JON PACK/TRUTV

RACHAEL VAUGHAN CLEMMONS
@rachaelclemz
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Amy Sedaris has a delightfully bizarre new show premiering tonight on TruTV at 10:30 p.m., "At Home with Amy Sedaris." And she's well aware that it's hard to explain. "You can say it's kind of like Martha Stewart, but it's funny and there's no audience," she says over the phone, talking a mile a minute.

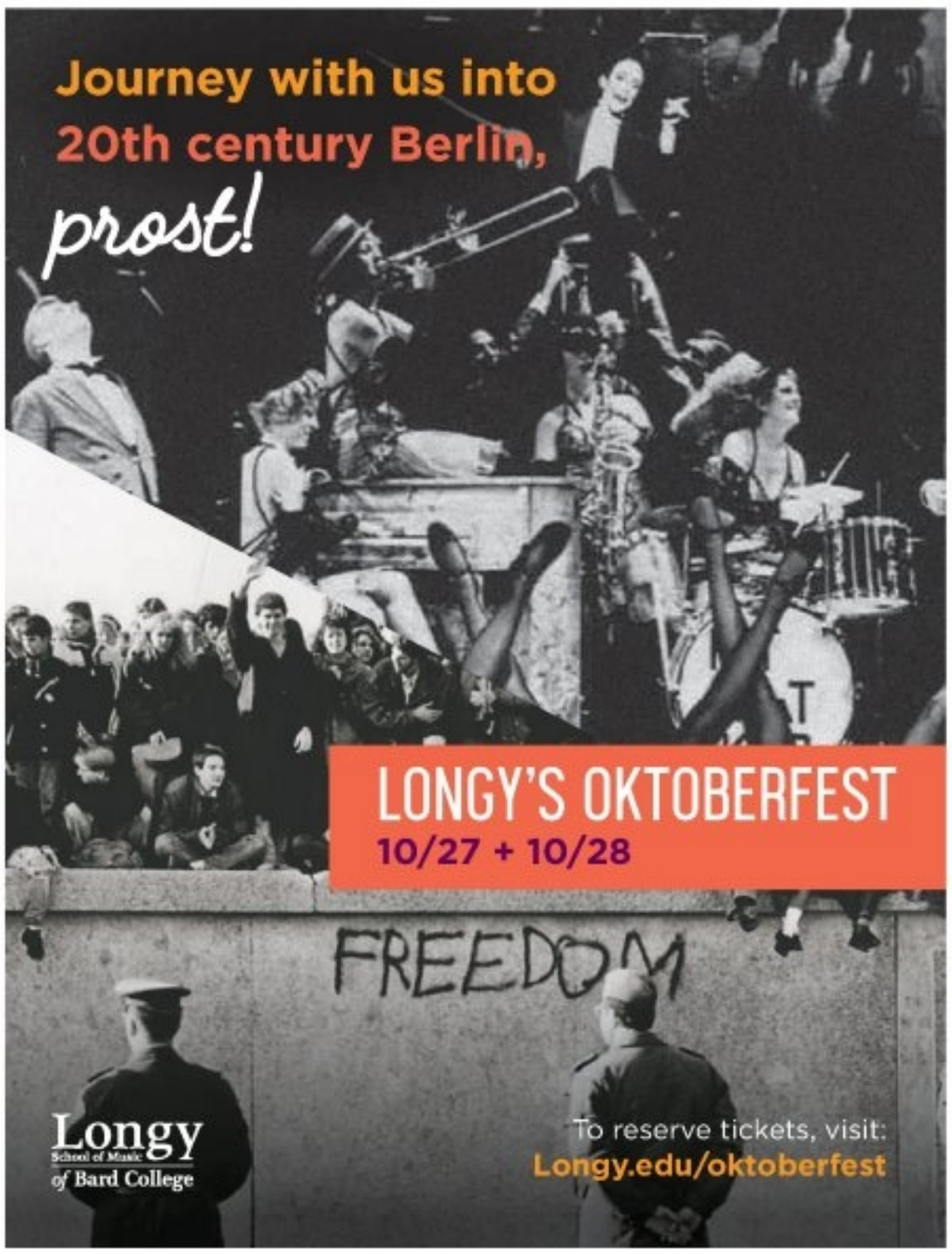
It's more than that, though — "At Home with Amy Sedaris" features the 56-year-old as herself (and various other characters) in increasingly weird situations with increasingly weird locals, based around themes like entertaining the grieving and cooking without pots and pans. Doesn't hurt that those locals are played by the likes of A-list actors and comedy veterans alike.

"Writing it, we always had our dream person in mind," she says. "We always dreamt we'd have Paul Giamatti as a businessman, or Michael Shannon as a murderer, or Justin Theroux as an astronaut. I never in a million years thought we'd get those people!"

We chatted more about the series that Sedaris has been dreaming of since she was little, where she found inspiration and why her brother, writer and humorist David Sedaris, is coming to "BoJack Horseman" next season.

Why did you decide to create a series instead of another of your homemaking or entertaining books?

I originally wanted to create the series back



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googly eyes to spare

in the early 2000s and I decided well, let me do the books first, and see if I can figure out what the show would be, based on the books. I kind of did it backwards. Then when it was time to pitch the show, I actually had two books to push across the table and say, "This is the show."

What kind of shows inspired "At Home with Amy Sedaris"?
They're all old shows. "The Galloping Gourmet," "Lidia's [Family] Table." The shows nowadays are fine, but I don't have the gadgets that they have. I don't have the counter space that they have. And it's not going to come out and look as pretty. My show isn't about that, it's pretty simple. It's kind of like, on a Girl Scout level.

What's your favorite thing to craft with?
Googly eyes are a personal fave. I put googly eyes on everything. You can come over to my house and I swear, there's gotta be some googly eyes stuck to the bottom of your foot. (Laughs) They're everywhere. It's a pain of ass.

Your work on "BoJack Horseman" is also phenomenal — what attracted you to Princess Carolyn?
They asked me, and I'm a big Will Arnett fan. And I like the drawings. I have been doing [Princess Carolyn voice] as a character voice for a while, so it helped me work on that character a little bit more.

We have an episode coming up where Princess Carolyn is around her family and my brother (David Sedaris) is going to play her mother.

Wait, what?! That's going to be so good.
How much fun is that going to be? And you're the first to know! It's hot off the press.

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You can't keep a bad

The British comedian returns to Madison Square on Wednesday October 25th with Humanity.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
@MetroBOS
gregory.wakeman@metro.us

Comedian Ricky Gervais is returning to his roots in stand-up after years as a writer, director and actor, and we couldn't be more excited.

"When I first started out I always felt it was my second or third job," Gervais tells us. "I thought of myself as a writer/director first, maybe even an actor next. [But] I loved doing stand-up. I always enjoyed it. Now it's the favorite thing I do. I've just fallen back in love with it."

And he knows he's never been better at the gig. "I think I'm good at it now," he says. "That shouldn't be a revelation — it *should* take 15 years to be a really good stand-up. You've got to put the work in. You've got to have something to say. You can't just do the same show for 10 years. You've got to mean it. You've got to grow with it as well."

There's also a deeper connection between Gervais and his audience these days, one he equates to "two mates talking." "The audience has known me for 15 years. Now I can go further and they're with me because they know me and they know what I'm doing. The other thing is anticipation. If people wait seven years to get a ticket, once they get one, the crowd is great, and the atmosphere's amazing. Its easily been my favorite tour. The best audiences. The fastest selling. Everything has been great."

It's clear that, as a stand-up, Gervais has never felt more fulfilled, passionate or expressive. All of which, he insists, is reflected in the material. "This is much realer. This is much more me. I talk about my family and upbringing. The big thing about it is the demise of humanity because of the rise of stupidity. This post-truth theory where people think their opinion is fact. The rise on social media of, 'It's more important to be popular than right.' No-one looks at an argument any more. They just look at who's saying it. Everyone has a side."

Gervais' disdain isn't just reserved for the far right, though, as he makes it clear that he also has an issue with the liberal left, too.

"Both sides are

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boss down

"Humanity" is the comedian's first stand up performance in seven years. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

guilty. The world we've got now exists because both sides are tired of being told what to do by authoritarian liberals. The more you tell someone not to say something the more they're going to want to say it. People have got to grow up. … I don't really get political. What I do pick on is the stupidity of something, whoever is saying it.

"In the early days of Twitter someone would get hounded off because they used the wrong word," he says. "They're not villains — they just didn't know. On the other side you have people that hate PC culture because they want to be racist. There's bad on both sides." Ahem.

Appealing to and dissecting both sides of the aisle has clearly galvanized Gervais, who even before this tour was regarded as one of the most incisive comedic minds of his generation. Now it sounds as though that was just the beginning, and perhaps his point all along, with this nearly sold out tour.

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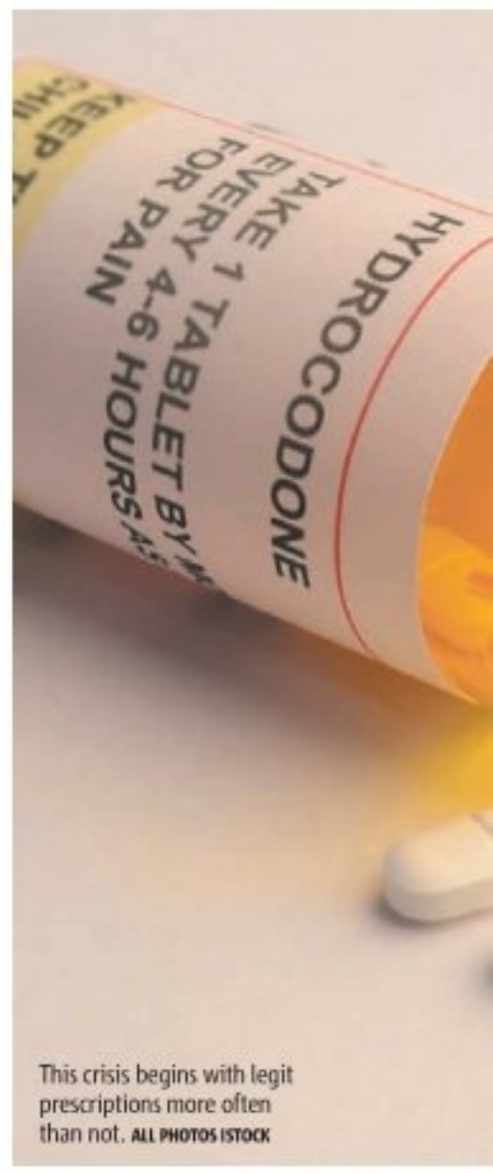
Opiates, opioids, heroin — what's the difference?



This crisis begins with legit prescriptions more often than not. ALL PHOTOS ISTOCK

The crisis is a national emergency, and here's what you need to know.

JOSHUA CROUTHAMEL
@MetroBOS
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It's sadly become a daily headline in the United States; the leading cause of death in the country for people under the age of 50 is a drug overdose. In fact, more than 64,000 Americans died in 2016 due to an overdose (compared with roughly 40,000 in car accidents). And the problem isn't going away. But what's at play in this epidemic?

We spoke with Dr. Deni Carise, Ph.D., the chief scientific officer at Recovery Centers of America, to learn more about the culprits, and how we've gotten to where we are today.

First of all, what is the difference between an opiate, an opioid and heroin? "The most important thing to know is that they all work on the same area of the brain, and are all addictive," says Carise. "They allow you to experience euphoria, they decrease your heart rate, and though different in strength, they can all kill you. The only difference between them is that when prescribed you know exactly what you're in for, whereas when purchased on the street in different forms it's anyone's guess."

Turns out, almost everything we think of as an opiate is, in fact, an opioid. Opiates must be derived from the poppy plant (an example of this is morphine). OxyContin, heroin — all drugs that used to be referred to as "narcotics" before the late 1990s, when pharmaceutical companies went to great stakes to convince healthcare providers and consumers that their pain relief medications weren't highly addictive, are opioids. So doctors, who didn't want their patients in pain, started handing out prescriptions in record numbers, and the general public, even more averse to pain, started asking for products by name.

The result was an explosion in the number of people dependent on these drugs. And as the cost of a prescribed medication would go up, and availability would go down, synthetics popped up on the street to fill that void.

Let's break down what synthetic versions of prescription drugs are plaguing the country, because 75% of people in treatment for heroin started with a prescription opioid.

Once prescriptions become unavailable or too expensive, many look to heroin as a next step. It's cheap — roughly 10% the cost of the prescription medication — and it's also abundant. "Six-hundred people try heroin for the first time every day in this country," says Carise, "and it enters the brain much quicker depending on the route of administration."

After heroin, we have fentanyl. It's an incredibly powerful opioid that's 50-100 times more potent than morphine. And though it used to be prescribed just for severe pain directly after a surgery, it's now being produced on the street. The major problem with street drugs is that no one knows exactly what's in them — one day's bag of heroin may be pure, and the next day's bag (which a user may take just to avoid getting sick rather than getting high) could be laced with fentanyl, and result in an overdose.

A really scary option on the black market is carfentanil. Its only approved use is by veterinarians on large animals, such as 14,000-pound African elephants. This drug is 10,000 times as strong as morphine, and is being used to cut heroin. "A dose the size of a grain of salt can kill someone by just coming into contact with your skin," says Carise. "It's colorless and odorless, so you can just inhale it and overdose. People don't ask for carfentanil, but unfortunately it finds its way into other street drugs [even marijuana]."

When a person is suspected of suffering from an opioid overdose, the drug Narcan has been "tremendous and profoundly useful reviving the people who have overdosed on heroin," says Carise, but unfortunately not when it comes to

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wellbeing

It's impossible to tell what street synthetics are cut with.

carfentanil. "Carfentanil lives longer in the body and outlives Narcan," she says.

"In the end, they all can kill you."

The government has made strides to curb the problem with prescription-drug-monitoring programs (thus outing "doctor shoppers" to mindful healthcare providers), but that does nothing to change the culture and care when people resort to using street drugs to manage their pain.

"We need to make treatment more available," says Carise, "21.2 million Americans have a substance-abuse disorder, and only 2.5 million receive treatment, that is only 10% of people with the disease."

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PATS SHOULD BE ABLE TO RUN THE TABLE IN MEDIOCRE NFL

OPINION

MATT BURKE
@burke_metro

The Pats' Nov. 12 date at Denver no longer looks intimidating. GETTY IMAGES

The Patriots are back in the leaders' position in the race to the Super Bowl.

Yup, that defense that was regarded as "worst in the NFL" earlier this month is currently decent enough, I guess, to win it all in this bizarre NFL season.

The Patriots offense, which has put up a measly 22.0 points per game in its last three games, is decent enough, I guess, to win it all.

The Pats are set to win this ugly league by default this season, in that they're one of the few teams that has slightly risen above mediocrity.

Recordwise, there are seven teams in the AFC right now with four or five wins: the Patriots, Bills, Dolphins, Steelers, Titans, Jaguars and Chiefs. The Pats have already lost to one team on that list, the Chiefs, and still have to play the Bills twice, the Dolphins twice, and the Steelers once — in Pittsburgh.

The Pats face the hottest team in the AFC this coming Sunday in the L.A. Chargers (3-4), who have won three games in a row and have three losses this season by a margin of three points or less. In other words, the Chargers probably belong in the slightly above mediocre group mentioned above.

After the Chargers game, the Pats have a bye, then play at Denver (3-3) and at Oakland (3-4). The Steelers game, which could very well be for the top seed in the AFC, is Dec. 17. The Pats close out their regular season on New Years Eve against the Jets, who are actually putting up a fight this year, and scattered in between now and then are their home and away dates with the Dolphins and Bills.

So, all told, the Pats don't have one easy game the rest of the season. If you're the glass half full type, though, there's not a date on that schedule that the Pats should lose.

That game after the bye week at Denver – typically the Pats' house of horrors – is no longer intimidating. The Pats' resurgent defense should have a field day with Trevor Siemian and Brock Osweiler as the Broncos offense has averaged a pathetic 10.5 points per game in its past four games.

Winning in Mexico City against the Raiders will be tough the week after, but it's far from impossible. The Raiders are a team that has already suffered through a four-game losing streak this season (lost at Washington, at Denver, at home to Baltimore and at home to the Chargers) and their defense is highly suspect. Oakland is currently No. 23 in the league in passing yards allowed and is 19th in the league against the run.

You'll hear a ton about how brutal the Pats' schedule is the rest of the way in the coming days, but as a great man one mumbled, "ignore the noise."

There is absolutely no reason why a team quarterbacked by Tom Brady and coached by Bill Belichick can't run the table on this feast of football feces.

Even though it looks like an 11-5 record could get the top overall seed in the AFC this year, the Pats can and will strive for better.

Pats schedule

Sun, Oct. 29 vs. Chargers
Sun, Nov. 5 Bye
Sun, Nov. 12 at Broncos
Sun, Nov. 19 at Raiders
Sun, Nov. 26 vs. Dolphins
Sun, Dec. 3 at Bills
Mon, Dec. 11 at Dolphins
Sun, Dec. 17 at Steelers
Sun, Dec. 24 vs. Bills
Sun, Dec. 31 vs. Jets

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5 Kind of hat
10 Algebra and trig
14 Grate upon
15 Question starter
16 Land measure
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18 Jazzman -- Blake
19 Ice palace
20 Spread liberally
22 Lower in esteem
24 -- "King" Cole
25 IV x XIII
26 Seek old haunts
30 Not specific
34 Out of control
35 Goofed up
37 Long couch
38 "Old" London theatre
39 To date
40 Plant sci.
41 Pizzazz
43 Tomato jelly
45 Sulk
46 Pleasure
48 Railroad bridge
50 Crusty dessert
51 A Miss America host
52 Makeshift
56 Eye makeup
60 BMW rival
61 Extinct birds
63 Speeds off
64 By and by
65 Relish tray item
66 Fateful day
67 Broken-off glacier
68 Wined and dined
69 Roman foe

Down

1 Crafts' partner
2 Caesar's conquest
3 This, in Havana
4 1957 launch
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6 It comes before Fri.
7 -- -eye steak
8 Like limes
9 Having tires
10 Takes vows
11 Diva's solo
12 Water the houseplants
13 Cod kin
21 Possesses
23 Card game for two
26 Carried on about
27 French writer -- Zola
28 Not shy
29 Lovers' meeting
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31 Bomb-squad worker
32 Run -- (go against)
33 Coffee and steamed milk
36 Tie fabric
42 Biting
43 In front (2 wds.)
44 Wrinkled
45 Fortune-teller
47 Temporary job
49 Ernie of the PGA
52 Volvo rival
53 Ditty
54 Hound's trail
55 Barbershop sign
56 Relocate
57 White House operative
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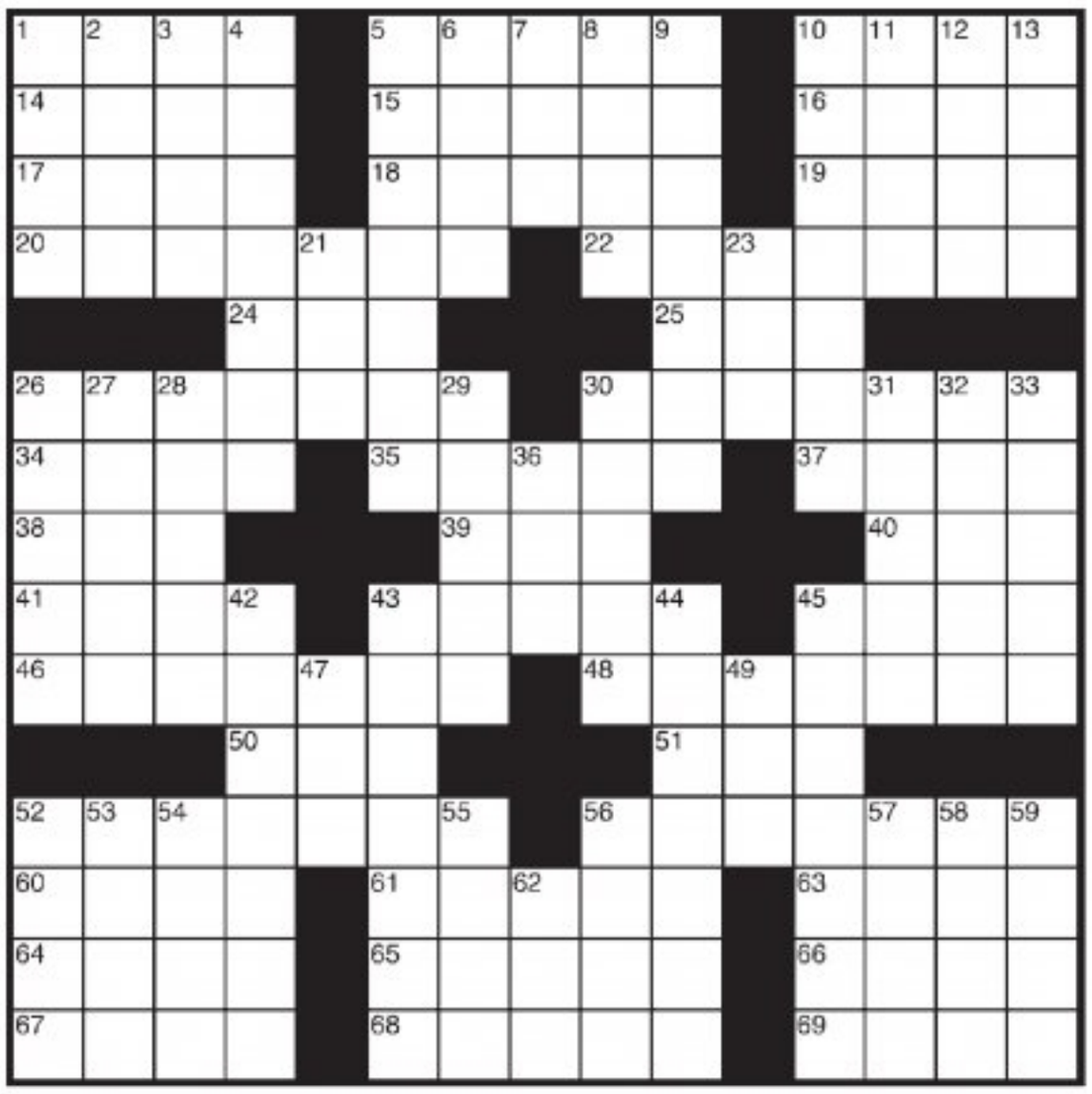
59 Staff subordinate (abbr.)
62 Telegraph signal



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easy

9	4						1	
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	6						4	7

hard

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	8		7				2	
3		4	2					

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Aries Follow your heart and take a passionate approach to achieving your goals. Partnerships can make a difference to how you move forward. Stabilize your position.

Taurus Don't feel the need to make a change just because someone else does. Aim to secure a financial, contractual or legal settlement you are negotiating.

Gemini A financial opportunity can change the way you live. Negotiate contracts and check out positions that have potential. An unexpected financial gain will be a relief.

Cancer Personal improvements can be made. Educational pursuits will help shape the way you think. An interesting partnership has the potential to be quite lucrative.

Leo Turn an opportunity into an adventure. Taking a business trip or using your skills to get ahead will pay off. Don't let your generosity put you in an unjustified position.

Virgo Emotions will smolder if you aren't willing to discuss personal matters openly. Use your intelligence and offer incentives to sway others to see things your way.

Libra Keeping secrets will be difficult. Unexpected changes will cause discord in an important relationship, resulting in the need to question motives and find solutions.

Scorpio An interesting discussion will give you something to consider. Head in a direction that you feel compelled to explore. Let your imagination wander.

Sagittarius Put your heart and soul into whatever you do. Helping others will make you feel good and could lead to an unexpected opportunity. Personal gains look promising.

Capricorn Observation is your best choice. An offer will not be all it's made out to be. Look for alternative options and offer suggestions based on your findings.

Aquarius If you put in the time, you will reap the rewards. Taking physical action will encourage others to pitch in and help. Be concise to avoid miscommunication.

Pisces Fighting the impossible will not help you get ahead. Go with the flow and make unique alterations that will separate you from everyone else. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

C	L	E	F		L	E	F	T	Y		S	E	C	T
A	I	D	A		O	P	I	N	E		H	E	A	R
R	A	I	N		D	E	L	T	A		E	L	S	E
	R	E	F	U	G	E	E		R	O	A	S	T	S
			A	R	E			S	L	A	T			
C	H	A	R	A	D	E		P	Y	T	H	O	N	S
H	A	Z	E	L		Q	U	E		H	E	R	O	N
O	S	U				U	M	A				I	R	E
S	T	R	A	D		A	P	R		L	O	O	S	E
E	Y	E	B	A	L	L		S	T	E	R	N	E	R
			O	L	E	S			O	I	L			
T	A	B	L	E	D		M	A	S	S	A	G	E	
A	L	A	I		G	A	I	T	S		N	O	I	R
D	U	B	S		E	M	C	E	E		D	A	R	N
A	M	A	H		S	T	A	N	D		O	D	E	S

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Spring 2018

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